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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

TRANSMITTAL FORM

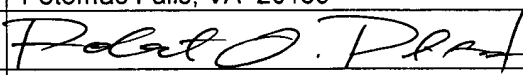
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/690,840	
	Filing Date	October 23, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Hitomi USHITANI et al.	
	Group Art Unit	2891	
	Examiner Name	Bradley Smith	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	0756-7213

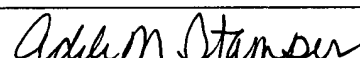
ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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Remarks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2280 for the above identified docket number.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Robert L. Pilaud, Reg. No. 53,470 Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C. PMB 955 21010 Southbank Street Potomac Falls, VA 20165
Signature	
Date	December 26, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Signature		Date	December 26, 2006

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Attorney Docket No. 0756-7213

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)	Group Art Unit: 2891
Hitomi USHITANI et al.)	Examiner: Bradley Smith
Serial No. 10/690,840)	<u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u>
Filed: October 23, 2003)	I hereby certify that this correspondence is
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)	2006.
)	<u>Adrian M. Stanger</u>

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed September 26, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 23, 2003; and December 16, 2004.

Claims 1-8 and 12-27 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-8 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-8 and 12-19 as obvious based on U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0087772 to Yamazaki. It further appears that the Official Action relies on Jaeger, "Introduction to Microelectric Fabrication," Volume 5, 1993, pages 18-19 and 91-95, to support the rejection. Although Jaeger is cited on Form PTO-892, it is unclear whether the Jaeger reference is intended to be part of the alleged *prima facie* case of obviousness. In any event, the Applicant respectfully